

Message Text

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9310

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3847

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, US, UN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CORE GROUP MEETING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1976

REF: A. USUN 3834 (NOTAL);
B. USUN 3736 (NOTAL);
C. USUN 3775 (NOTAL);
D. SCRANTON-HABIB TELECON

1. SUMMARY: - A FULL CORE GROUP MEETING AT USUN ON SEPTEMBER 20TH AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL HEARD FROM GOVERNOR SCRANTON ABOUT INTENTIONS OF PRO-DPRK CO-SPONSORS TO WITHDRAW PRO-DPRK ITEM AND RESOLUTION. CORE GROUP AGREED AD REFERENDUM TO CAPITALS ON DESIRABILITY OF SIMILAR ACTION BY PRO-ROK SIDE AS SOON AS OTHER SIDE HAS WITHDRAWN ITS ITEM AND RESOLUTION. THE PRO-DPRK SIDE IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL ON MORNING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND ON PRO-DPRK APPROACH:

(A) AMBASSADOR DATCU OF ROMANIA (CHAIRMAN OF EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP) CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 20. DATCU SAID HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY NORTH KOREANS AND THAT LATTER WERE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK WITHDRAWAL OF HOSTILE ITEM AND RESOLUTION. DATCU ASKED FOR SCRANTON'S COOPERATION. SCRANTON ASSURED HIM HE WOULD HAVE IT. DATCU ADDED EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP WOULD MEET BEFORE LUNCH.

(B) SCRANTON THEN CALLED ON ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TO DISCUSS THIS. PARK SAID HE HOPED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF ITEMS AND RESOLUTIONS COULD BE ARRANGED BECAUSE OUR SIDE HAS BEEN MAKING CLEAR SINCE THE BEGINNING ITS DESIRE TO AVIOD CONFRONTATION. PARK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION OF "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE". HE SAID THAT IF OTHER SIDE WOULD PLEDGE FORMALLY TO TAKE BACK ITS ITEM AND RESOLUTION THIS COULD REFLECT "PROGRESS".

(C) SCRANTON SAID THAT HE HOPED OUR SIDE WOULD NOT PLAY UP THIS DEVELOPMENT AS A "GREAT VICTORY".

(D) PARK ASKED HOW OTHER SIDE INTENDED TO PUT IN ITS REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL. SCRANTON AGREED TO SEEK DETAILS AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP PARK FULLY INFORMED AS TO DEVELOPMENTS.

(E) AMBASSADOR SHERER SHORTLY THEREAFTER TELEPHONED
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DATCU ON BEHALF OF SCRANTON TO RELAY SOUTH KOREAN REACTION AND TO ASK DETAILS AS TO HOW OTHER SIDE PLANNED WITHDRAW ITS RESOLUTION. DATCU SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE BY MEANS OF "VERY SIMPLE" LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL SIGNED BY ALL CO-SPONSORS OF PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION. HE SAID THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP WOULD BE MEETING AT 12:20 TO ENDORSE IDEA OF WITHDRAWAL. THIS IDEA WOULD BE PRESENTED TO GROUP BY NORTH KOREANS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THERE

WOULD BE MEETING OF ALL CO-SPONSORS OF PRO-DPRK ITEM AND RESOLUTION TO SIGN LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL. THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE DEPOSITED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY EVENT BEFORE THE GENERAL COMMITTEE CONVENED ON SEPTEMBER 22. DATCU GAVE HIS ASSURANCES THAT ONCE THE LETTER WAS DEPOSITED THERE WOULD BE NO EFFORTS TO REINSCRIBE A PRO-DPRK ITEM "AT LEAST DURING THIS UNGA." IN REPLY TO SHERER'S QUESTION, DATCU SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAS "TAKEN NOTE" WHEN INFORMED OF NORTH KOREAN WISH TO WITHDRAW THE PRO-DPRK ITEM AND RESOLUTION. DATCU PROMISED TO KEEP SCRANTON AND SHERER INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. DATCU SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED SHERER THAT EAST EUROPEAN GROUP HAD ENDORSED THE WITHDRAWAL AND THAT A MEETING OF ALL CO-SPONSORS OF RPO-DPRK ITEM AND RESOLUTION WAS SLATED FOR 4:00 PM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

3. AT CORE GROUP MEETING, WHICH WAS CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR MOON OF ROK AND WAS ATTENDED BY FULL GROUP, SCRANTON SET FORTH MANY OF FOREGOING DETAILS, PURSUANT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS (REF D) SCRANTON RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL OF FRIENDLY ITEM (AND RESOLUTION) AS SOON AS OTHER SIDE HAD WITHDRAWN ITS ITEM(AND RESOLUTION). UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION WAS EXPRESSED BY CORE GROUP, AD REFERENDUM TO CAPITALS.

4. US PUT FORWARD FOR CORE GROUP'S CONSIDERATION DRAFT TEXT FOR LETTER FROM CO-SPONSORS TO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PRO-ROK ITEM:

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

WE NOTED OUR DESIRE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION WHEN, ON 20 AUGUST 1976, WE REQUESTED THE INCLUSION
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IN THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF AN ITEM ENTITLED "NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN PROBLEM AND THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA" (A/31/194). WITH REFERENCE TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE REQUEST BY ANOTHER GROUP OF MEMBER STATES FOR INSCRIPTION OF ANOTHER ITEM CONCERNING KOREA, WE NOW HAVE THE HONOR TO WITHDRAW OUR EARLIER REQUEST."

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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5. CORE GROUP AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT AMBASSADORIAL-
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LEVEL ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 11:00 A.M. AT USUN TO

HEAR REACTIONS FROM CORE GROUP CAPITALS.

THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED AT 11:30 A.M. BY A MEETING OF ALL 20 PRO-ROK CO-SPONSORS IN ORDER TO SEEK CONSENSUS ON WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRO-ROK ITEM PROVIDED OTHER SIDE HAS WITHDRAWN ITS ITEM.

6. AS TO INITIAL COMMENTS TO PRESS REGARDING PRO-DPRK AND PRO-ROK WITHDRAWALS, CORE GROUP AGREED WITH PROPOSALS OF CANADA'S AMBASSADOR BARTON: (A) PRO-DPRK, "A MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT;" AND (B) PRO-ROK, "OUR LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL SPEAKS FOR ITSELF."

7. SHORTLY AFTER CORE GROUP MEETING, DATCU TELEPHONED SHERER TO SAY THAT PRO-DPRK CO-SPONSORS HAS MEET AS A WHOLE IN LATE AFTERNOON AND HAD AGREED ON WITHDRAWAL OF PRO-DPRK ITEM. DATCU SAID THAT TANZANIA WOULD DRAFT AND SUBMIT SIMPLE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: "I HAVE THE HONOR IN THE NAME OF THE SPONSORS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA OF THE 31ST UNGA OF ITEM 2 ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY LIST ON PROPOSED ITEMS IS WITHDRAWN". DATCU ADDED THAT THE LETTER WOULD BE DEPOSITED WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT 10:30 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 21. DATCU SAID HE WOULD SEND SHERER A COPY AT THE SAME TIME. DATCU REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT, ONCE THE LETTER WAS DEPOSITED, THERE WOULD BE NO EFFORTS TO REINSCRIBE A PRO-DPRK ITEM, "AT LEAST DURING THIS UNGA".

8. COMMENT: PRO-ROK LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL ALSO MAY BE MODIFIED TO ENABLE SINGLE CO-SPONSOR'S SUBMISSION, IF SUBMISSION BY SINGLE CO-SPONSOR ON BEHALF OF CO-SPONSORS AS A WHOLE PROVES MORE EXPEDITIOUS.

9. U.S. AND OTHERS WILL MAKE CLEAR TO UNGA PRESIDENT AMERASINGH, WHO EX-OFFICIO IS CHAIRMAN OF UNGA GENERAL COMMITTEE, THAT PRO-DPRK SIDE HAS GIVEN OUR SIDE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO EFFORTS TO REINSCRIBE PRO-DPRK ITEM, AT LEAST DURING THIS UNGA, ONCE PRO-DPRK LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN DEPOSITED.

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10. WHEN ASKED AT CORE GROUP MEETING TO COMMENT AS TO REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PRO-DPRK ITEM, MOON SAID THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME PATIENCE TO LEARN PRECISE REASONS. MOON SUGGESTED, THOUGH, THAT PRO-DPRK WITHDRAWAL RELATED TO REALIZATION THAT ANALYSIS OF TRENDS SUGGESTED LOSS OF DPRK VOTING SUPPORT AND WITH IT UNPALATABLE PROSPECT THAT PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION WOULD ENJOY SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED SUPPORT THIS YEAR. MOON NOTED THAT TURNOUTS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER

PARK'S RECENT DINNER FOR U.N. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN "VERY GOOD", EVEN INCLUDING SOME CO-SPONSORS OF PRO-DPRK ITEM. MOON CONSIDERED THAT HEAVY-HANDED DPRK PERFORMANCE AT COLOMBO MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DILUTION OF NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR DPRK.

11. THE PRESS ALREADY HAS WIND OF PRO-DPRK WITHDRAWAL AND IS SPECULATING AS TO PRO-ROK WITHDRAWAL PLANS. THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE PRESS COMMENT, THEREFORE, EVEN BEFORE WITHDRAWAL ACTIONS COMPLETED.

12. IN ADDITION TO CONSPONSORS, CORE GROUP ADVISING NORWEGIAN AND AUSTRALIAN PERM REPS OF DEVELOPMENTS. SCRANTON

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Message Attributes

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